GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3096
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2017
Direct Election to District Panchayat Presidents
Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

a) whether the Government has held any discussions with State Governments regarding direct election of district panchayat Presidents and Block Heads;
b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard;
c) if not, the reasons therefor;
d) whether the Government has taken any special initiative to do away with the intrusion of money and power in this regard; and
e) if so, the details thereof including time when this initiative was taken?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (c): The Panchayati Raj system in the country is structured in accordance with the relevant provisions of Part IX of the Constitution. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) reviews these provisions, including their implementation, from time to time through discussions/consultations with States. Views of the State Governments were sought regarding direct elections to the posts of Chairpersons in the District and Block level Panchayats. As per Article 243C(5)(b) of the Constitution, the Chairperson of a Panchayat at the intermediate level or district level shall be elected by, and from amongst, the elected members thereof.
(d) & (e): The intrusion of money and power in the election of Chairperson of intermediate or district level panchayats is a matter related to Panchayat elections. As per Article 243K(1) of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral roll for, and the conduct of, all elections are vested in State Election Commission (SEC). Further, in terms of Article 243K(4), subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, elections to Panchayats.
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